

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A data collection device (10) for reading a machine readable data storage medium (38) comprising data encoded in a readable format, the data collection device (10) comprising:
 - a) a medium reading system (21) for detecting a characteristic of the machine readable data storage medium (38) and generating digital data representative of the characteristic;
 - b) a processor (20) operating an embedded decoder system (76) comprising a decoder module (72) and an interpreter module (84);
 - i) the decoder module (76) receiving the digital data, determining the data encoded in the machine readable data storage medium, and generating decoded data (134); and
 - ii) the interpreter module (84) receiving the decoded data (134) and manipulating the decoded data (134) in accordance with the plurality of data manipulation commands defined in a rules file (85) to generate formatted data (136), wherein the data manipulation commands are logically structured to implement an input filter, a router, and an output filter.
2. (Original) The data collection device of claim 1, further comprising a communication module (26) coupled to the processor and transferring the formatted data to a remote system.
3. (Original) The data collection device of claim 1 wherein:

the interpreter module 84 comprises an expression library (83), the expression library (83) including a plurality of data manipulation commands and, in association with each of the plurality of data manipulation commands, an instruction for performing the data manipulation command (89); and

the interpreter module (84) provides for manipulating the decoded data (134) by, for each data manipulation defined in the rules file (85), performing the instruction (91) associated with the data manipulation.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The data collection device of claim 3, wherein:~~ A data collection device (10) for reading a machine readable data storage medium (38) comprising data encoded in a readable format, the data collection device (10) comprising:

a) a medium reading system (21) for detecting a characteristic of the machine readable data storage medium (38) and generating digital data representative of the characteristic;

b) a processor (20) operating an embedded decoder system (76) comprising a decoder module (72) and an interpreter module (84);

i) the decoder module (76) receiving the digital data, determining the data encoded in the machine readable data storage medium, and generating decoded data (134); and

ii) the interpreter module (84) receiving the decoded data (134) and manipulating the decoded data (134) in accordance with the plurality of data manipulation commands defined in a rules file (85) to generate formatted data (136);

wherein the interpreter module 84 comprises an expression library (83), the expression library (83) including a plurality of data manipulation commands and, in association with each of the plurality of data manipulation commands, an instruction for performing the data manipulation command (89);

wherein the interpreter module (84) provides for manipulating the decoded data (134) by, for each data manipulation defined in the rules file (85), performing the instruction (91) associated with the data manipulation;

wherein the instruction associated with each data manipulation is a compiling instruction for building executable code for performing the data manipulation;

wherein the interpreter module (84) comprises a compiler module (128), wherein the compiler module (128) uses the compiling instruction to compile a data handling module (86) for

manipulating the decoded data in accordance with the plurality of data manipulation commands defined in the rules file; and

and wherein the interpreter module (84) manipulates the decoded data (134) by operating the data handling module (86).

5. (Original) The data collection device of claim 4, wherein the rules file is a script file and the plurality of data manipulation commands are defined utilizing text commands and arguments within a programming language recognized by the compiler module (128).

6. (Original) The data collection device of claim 5, wherein the plurality of data manipulation commands (87) included in the expression library (83) defines the universe of data manipulation commands available for use in the rules file (85).

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The data collection device of claim 3, wherein:~~ A data collection device (10) for reading a machine readable data storage medium (38) comprising data encoded in a readable format, the data collection device (10) comprising:

a) a medium reading system (21) for detecting a characteristic of the machine readable data storage medium (38) and generating digital data representative of the characteristic;

b) a processor (20) operating an embedded decoder system (76) comprising a decoder module (72) and an interpreter module (84);

i) the decoder module (76) receiving the digital data, determining the data encoded in the machine readable data storage medium, and generating decoded data (134); and

ii) the interpreter module (84) receiving the decoded data (134) and manipulating the decoded data (134) in accordance with the plurality of data manipulation commands defined in a rules file (85) to generate formatted data (136);

wherein the interpreter module 84 comprises an expression library (83), the expression library (83) including a plurality of data manipulation commands and, in association with each of

the plurality of data manipulation commands, an instruction for performing the data manipulation command (89);

wherein the interpreter module (84) provides for manipulating the decoded data (134) by, for each data manipulation defined in the rules file (85), performing the instruction (91) associated with the data manipulation;

wherein the instruction associated with each data manipulation command (89) is a compiling instruction for compiling machine readable instructions which are recognizable by a data handling module (86);

wherein the interpreter module (84) comprises a compiler module (128), wherein the compiler module uses the compiling instruction to compile machine readable instructions which instruct the data handling module (86) to manipulate the decoded data in accordance with the plurality of data manipulation commands defined in the rules file; and

wherein the executable code block (86) manipulates the decoded data (134) by retrieving the machine readable instructions and performing the data manipulations in accordance to the machine readable instructions.

8. (Original) The data collection device of claim 7, wherein the rules file is a script file and the plurality of data manipulation commands are defined utilizing text commands and arguments within a programming language recognized by the compiler module (128).

9. (Original) The data collection device of claim 8, wherein the plurality of data manipulation commands (87) included in the expression library (83) defines the universe of data manipulation commands available for use in the rules file (85).

10. (Currently Amended) A data collection device (10) for reading a machine readable data storage medium (38) comprising data encoded a readable format, the data collection device (10) comprising:

a) a medium reading system (21) for detecting a characteristic of the machine readable data storage medium and generating digital data representative of the characteristic;

b) a memory comprising instructions executable by a processor, the instructions comprising:

i) a decoder module (76) comprising executable code for receiving the digital data, determining the data encoded in the readable format, and generating decoded data (134); and

ii) an interpreter module (84) comprising executable code for reading a plurality of data manipulation commands from a rules file and manipulating the decoded data (134) in accordance with the plurality of data manipulation commands to generate formatted data (136), wherein the data manipulation commands are logically structured to implement an input filter, a router, and an output filter.

11. (Original) The data collection device of claim 10, further comprising a communication module (26) coupled to the processor and transferring the formatted data (136) to a remote system.

12. (Original) The data collection device of claim 10, wherein:

the interpreter module 84 comprises an expression library (83), the expression library (83) including a plurality of data manipulation commands and, in association with each of the plurality of data manipulation commands, an instruction for performing the data manipulation command (89); and

the interpreter module (84) provides for manipulating the decoded data (134) by, for each data manipulation defined in the rules file (85), performing the instruction (91) associated with the data manipulation.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The data collection device of claim 12, wherein:~~ A data collection device (10) for reading a machine readable data storage medium (38) comprising data encoded a readable format, the data collection device (10) comprising:

a) a medium reading system (21) for detecting a characteristic of the machine readable data storage medium and generating digital data representative of the characteristic;

b) a memory comprising instructions executable by a processor, the instructions comprising:

i) a decoder module (76) comprising executable code for receiving the digital data, determining the data encoded in the readable format, and generating decoded data (134);
and

ii) an interpreter module (84) comprising executable code for reading a plurality of data manipulation commands from a rules file and manipulating the decoded data (134) in accordance with the plurality of data manipulation commands to generate formatted data (136);

wherein the interpreter module 84 comprises an expression library (83), the expression library (83) including a plurality of data manipulation commands and, in association with each of the plurality of data manipulation commands, an instruction for performing the data manipulation command (89);

wherein the interpreter module (84) provides for manipulating the decoded data (134) by, for each data manipulation defined in the rules file (85), performing the instruction (91) associated with the data manipulation;

wherein the instruction associated with each data manipulation is a compiling instruction for building executable code for performing the data manipulation;

wherein the interpreter module (84) comprises a compiler module (128), wherein the compiler module (128) uses the compiling instructions to compile a data handling module (86) for manipulating the decoded data in accordance with the plurality of data manipulation commands defined in the rules file (85); and

~~and~~ wherein the interpreter module (84) manipulates the decoded data (134) by operating the data handling module (86).

14. (Original) The data collection device of claim 13, wherein the rules file is a script file and the plurality of data manipulation commands are defined utilizing text commands and arguments within a programming language recognized by the compiler module (128).

15. (Original) The data collection device of claim 14, wherein the plurality of data manipulation commands (87) included in the expression library (83) defines the universe of data manipulation commands available for use in the rules file (85).

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The data collection device of claim 12, wherein:~~ A data collection device (10) for reading a machine readable data storage medium (38) comprising data encoded a readable format, the data collection device (10) comprising:

a) a medium reading system (21) for detecting a characteristic of the machine readable data storage medium and generating digital data representative of the characteristic;

b) a memory comprising instructions executable by a processor, the instructions comprising:

i) a decoder module (76) comprising executable code for receiving the digital data, determining the data encoded in the readable format, and generating decoded data (134);

and

ii) an interpreter module (84) comprising executable code for reading a plurality of data manipulation commands from a rules file and manipulating the decoded data (134) in accordance with the plurality of data manipulation commands to generate formatted data (136);

wherein the interpreter module 84 comprises an expression library (83), the expression library (83) including a plurality of data manipulation commands and, in association with each of

the plurality of data manipulation commands, an instruction for performing the data manipulation command (89);

wherein the interpreter module (84) provides for manipulating the decoded data (134) by, for each data manipulation defined in the rules file (85), performing the instruction (91) associated with the data manipulation;

wherein the instruction associated with each data manipulation command (89) is a compiling instruction for compiling machine readable instructions which are recognizable by a data handling module (86);

wherein the interpreter module (84) comprises a compiler module (128), wherein the compiler module uses the compiling instruction to compile machine readable instructions which instruct the data handling module (86) to manipulate the decoded data in accordance with the plurality of data manipulation commands defined in the rules file; and

wherein the executable code block (86) manipulates the decoded data (134) by retrieving the machine readable instructions and performing the data manipulations in accordance to the machine readable instructions.

17. (Original) The data collection device of claim 16, wherein the rules file is a script file and the plurality of data manipulation commands are defined utilizing text commands and arguments within a programming language recognized by the compiler module (128).

18. (Original) The data collection device of claim 17, wherein the plurality of data manipulation commands (87) included in the expression library (83) defines the universe of data manipulation commands available for use in the rules file (85).

19. (Currently Amended) A method for decoding a machine readable data storage medium comprising data encoded in a machine readable format and manipulating the decoded data for output by a data collection device, the method comprising:

- a) detecting the data encoded in the machine readable format and generating digital data representative thereof;
- b) passing the digital data to an embedded decoder system which:
 - i) determines the data encoded in the data elements and generating decoded data; and
 - ii) manipulating the decoded data in accordance with the plurality of data manipulation commands defined in a rules file to generate formatted data, wherein the data manipulation commands are logically structured to implement an input filter, a router, and an output filter.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising transferring the formatted data to a remote system.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein:

the step of manipulating the decoded data comprises, for each data manipulation command defined in the rules file:

obtaining from an expression library an instruction associated with the data manipulation command; and
performing the instruction.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 20, wherein:~~ A method for decoding a machine readable data storage medium comprising data encoded in a machine readable format and manipulating the decoded data for output by a data collection device, the method comprising:

- a) detecting the data encoded in the machine readable format and generating digital data representative thereof;
- b) passing the digital data to an embedded decoder system which:

i) determines the data encoded in the data elements and generating decoded data; and

ii) manipulates the decoded data in accordance with the plurality of data manipulation commands defined in a rules file to generate formatted data; and

c) transferring the formatted data to a remote system;

wherein the instruction associated with each data manipulation command is a compiling instruction for building executable code for performing the data manipulation; and

wherein the step of manipulating the decoded data comprises:

using the compiling instruction to compile a data handling module for manipulating the decoded data in accordance with the plurality of data manipulation commands defined in the rules file; and

manipulating the decoded data by operating the data handling module.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the rules file is a script file and the plurality of data manipulation commands are defined utilizing text commands and arguments within a pre-defined programming language.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the plurality of data manipulation commands included in the expression library defines the universe of data manipulation commands available for use in the rules file.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 20, wherein:~~ A method for decoding a machine readable data storage medium comprising data encoded in a machine readable format and manipulating the decoded data for output by a data collection device, the method comprising:

a) detecting the data encoded in the machine readable format and generating digital data representative thereof;

b) passing the digital data to an embedded decoder system which:

i) determines the data encoded in the data elements and generating decoded data; and

ii) manipulates the decoded data in accordance with the plurality of data manipulation commands defined in a rules file to generate formatted data; and

c) transferring the formatted data to a remote system;

wherein the instruction associated with each data manipulation command is a compiling instruction for compiling machine readable instructions which are recognizable by a data handling module; and

wherein the step of manipulating the decoded data comprises:

using the compiling instruction to compile machine readable instructions which instruct the data handling module to manipulate the decoded data in accordance with the plurality of data manipulation commands defined in the rules file; and

manipulating the decoded data by operating the data handling module to retrieve the machine readable instructions and perform the data manipulations in accordance to the machine readable instructions.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the rules file is a script file and the plurality of data manipulation commands are defined utilizing text commands and arguments within a programming language recognized by the compiler module.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the plurality of data manipulation commands included in the expression library defines the universe of data manipulation commands available for use in the rules file.

28. (Currently Amended) A method for decoding a machine readable data storage medium comprising data encoded in a machine readable format and manipulating the decoded data for output by a data collection device, the method comprising:

a) detecting the data encoded in a machine readable format from a machine readable data storage medium (38) and generating digital data representative thereof;

b) passing the digital data representative of the code elements to a memory;

c) executing from the memory, native machine code instructions comprising:

i) decoder instructions for retrieving the digital data, determining the data encoded in the data elements, and generating decoded data; and

ii) interpreter instructions for reading a plurality of data manipulation commands from a rules file and manipulating the decoded data in accordance with the plurality of data manipulation commands to generate formatted data, wherein the data manipulation commands are logically structured to implement an input filter, a router, and an output filter.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, further comprising transferring the formatted data to a remote system.

30. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein:

the step of manipulating the decoded data comprises, for each data manipulation command defined in the rules file:

obtaining from an expression library an instruction associated with the data manipulation command; and

performing the instruction.

31. (Currently Amended) ~~The data collection device of claim 30, wherein:~~ A method for decoding a machine readable data storage medium comprising data encoded in a machine readable format and manipulating the decoded data for output by a data collection device, the method comprising:

a) detecting the data encoded in a machine readable format from a machine readable data storage medium (38) and generating digital data representative thereof;

b) passing the digital data representative of the code elements to a memory;
c) executing from the memory, native machine code instructions comprising:
 i) decoder instructions for retrieving the digital data, determining the data encoded
in the data elements, and generating decoded data; and
 ii) interpreter instructions for reading a plurality of data manipulation commands
from a rules file and manipulating the decoded data in accordance with the plurality of data
manipulation commands to generate formatted data;
 wherein the step of manipulating the decoded data comprises, for each data manipulation
command defined in the rules file:
 obtaining from an expression library an instruction associated with the data
manipulation command; and
 performing the instruction;
 wherein the instruction associated with each data manipulation is a compiling instruction
for building executable code for performing the data manipulation; and
 wherein the step of manipulating the decoded data comprises:
 using the compiling instruction to compile a data handling module for
manipulating the decoded data in accordance with the plurality of data manipulation commands
defined in the rules file; and
 manipulating the decoded data by operating the data handling module.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the rules file is a script file and the plurality of data manipulation commands are defined utilizing text commands and arguments within a programming language recognized by the compiler module (128).

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the plurality of data manipulation commands (87) included in the expression library (83) defines the universe of data manipulation commands available for use in the rules file (85).

34. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 30, wherein:~~ A method for decoding a machine readable data storage medium comprising data encoded in a machine readable format and manipulating the decoded data for output by a data collection device, the method comprising:

a) detecting the data encoded in a machine readable format from a machine readable data storage medium (38) and generating digital data representative thereof;

b) passing the digital data representative of the code elements to a memory; and

c) executing from the memory, native machine code instructions comprising:

i) decoder instructions for retrieving the digital data, determining the data encoded in the data elements, and generating decoded data; and

ii) interpreter instructions for reading a plurality of data manipulation commands from a rules file and manipulating the decoded data in accordance with the plurality of data manipulation commands to generate formatted data;

wherein the step of manipulating the decoded data comprises, for each data manipulation command defined in the rules file:

obtaining from an expression library an instruction associated with the data manipulation command; and

performing the instruction;

wherein the instruction associated with each data manipulation command is a compiling instruction for compiling machine readable instructions which are recognizable by a data handling module; and

wherein the step of manipulating the decoded data comprises:

using the compiling instruction to compile machine readable instructions which instruct the data handling module to manipulate the decoded data in accordance with the plurality of data manipulation commands defined in the rules file; and

manipulating the decoded data by operating the data handling module to retrieve the machine readable instructions and perform the data manipulations in accordance to the machine readable instructions.

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35. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein the rules file is a script file and the plurality of data manipulation commands are defined utilizing text commands and arguments within a programming language recognized by the compiler module (128).

36. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the plurality of data manipulation commands (87) included in the expression library (83) defines the universe of data manipulation commands available for use in the rules file (85).